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SUBJECT: INDIA DISAPPOINTED WITH USG WITHDRAWAL FROM HRC

REF: A. SECSTATE 61034

[1](#)B. NEW DELHI 01222

[1](#)1. (SBU) Poloff delivered demarche (Ref A) to MEA Director (United Nations Economic and Social) Dinesh Patnaik on June 11, explaining why the USG will no longer participate in the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) session and couching this as an opportunity for US-India cooperation on UN reform. Patnaik replied that the GOI does not view the HRC from the same perspective as other members. The GOI would prefer a more collaborative approach to the promotion of human rights, noting that the current strategy of singling out offenders has not succeeded.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Regarding HRC reform, Patnaik emphasized that the GOI supports a package to reform the entire UN and disagrees with the USG's calls for selective reforms. The GOI advocates two primary areas for reform: adequate representation that reflects the current global dynamic, particularly in the UN Security Council; and the reorientation of the UN to its original mission of development coordination. The GOI views the strengthening of the UN development agenda as the most important goal.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Patnaik concluded that the GOI is disappointed with the USG's decision to leave the HRC and would prefer the USG to leverage its influence from within the institution. His reaction, comments and concerns are consistent with Indian Foreign Secretary Menon's message to Under Secretary Dobriansky and Assistant Secretary Kramer at the Global Issues Forum in April 2008 (Ref B).
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